

Connections

June 2012

Draft Transportation Program Reflects Funding Freefall

by Holly Dentner

In the last ten years, great progress has been made to improve Missouri's transportation system, due largely to funding from Amendment 3 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

But the sense of satisfaction that comes from traveling on those smooth, safe roadways may soon be forgotten. Missouri's transportation system is in the midst of a drastic funding shortage, and unless a solution is found, the situation will only get worse.

In May, MoDOT released for public comment the 2013-2017 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program. The program illustrates how Missouri's construction program has dropped from an average of \$1.2 billion in recent years to about \$700 million.

"We are focused on keeping the transportation system in as good a condition as we can, for as long as we can, with the

resources we have, keeping everyone safe, and providing excellent customer service," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. "But we can't cut our way to an improved transportation system."

A \$700 million transportation program is barely enough to maintain the existing system, much less tackle the types of projects that create jobs, increase safety, ease congestion and foster economic development. In an effort to make the most of every dollar, MoDOT has reduced staff, facilities and equipment. But the department must continue to deliver on its commitments to the state of Missouri.

The draft transportation plan was released on May 2 and allows the public to review all the transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for the next five years. This year's program shows how the department simply no lon-



ger has the resources to tackle big projects that enhance the transportation system. In fact, most of the projects in the program are primarily to take care of the existing system.

Comments received on the draft transportation program are now being reviewed by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, who approve the final version of the program in July.

'Blue Ribbon' Committee to Gather Public Input on Transportation

In March, Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley announced the creation of the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs. This 21-member panel includes business leaders, contrac-

tors and special interest groups from across the state.

"The purpose of the committee is to examine Missouri's current and future transportation needs and explore possible solutions," said Speaker Tilley. "We need to start a conversation with all Missouri citizens to make sure our transportation system can function at a level that will foster economic growth and handle growing traffic safely and efficiently." The com-



Area citizens in the Northwest District attending the Blue Ribbon Committee meeting in St. Joe.

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Safety Jackpot Program Promises Great Results and Fun for Employees



By now everyone should have heard about MoDOT's new safety culture initiative. One of the first new programs coming your way that's all about creating a safe work environment is the Safety Jackpot Program. This incentive program is geared towards encouraging and rewarding excellence in regard to safety. It will take the place of the previous safety incentive program, Safety Pays, and promises to produce great results while being fun and exciting for employees.

With Safety Jackpot, the word "incentive" takes on a whole new meaning from anything we've seen in the past, and it's certain to get employees excited about working safely every day.

At the end of each week supervisors will reward employees for working safely by giving the employee a game card which has a point value. The points can be accumulated and redeemed for prizes in the Safety Jackpot rewards catalog. Employees will also be entered into a:

- Monthly grab bag drawing just for MoDOT employees. The winning employee will be paid a visit from a representative of the program to conduct a grab bag. The winning employee will win dollar amounts from \$500 to \$10,000.
- Quarterly national drawing to win \$10,000.
- Annual drawing to win a trip to Las Vegas and a chance to win up to \$1 million.

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Achievement of Excellent

The Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (Financial Services Division) received a Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award was given in recognition of the division’s comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. This is the fourth consecutive year the award has been received.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and represents a significant accomplishment by a gov-

ernment and its management. Financial Services Manager Christina Wilkerson, along with several other division staff members, led the coordination of compiling the report. “Our staff does an excellent job, not only with this report, but in everything they do,” said Financial Services Director Brenda Morris. “We appreciate



our efforts being recognized by the Association.”

According to GFOA, “The report met the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive ‘spirit of full disclosure’ to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups.”

The Certificate of Excellence is presented to Financial Services Manager Christina Wilkerson by Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission’s Vice Chair Grace M. Nichols

‘Blue Ribbon’ Committee

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is lead by former Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Bill McKenna, and former Missouri House Speaker Rod Jetton.

To gather information on future needs and challenges, the committee scheduled public meetings across the state this spring and summer. During the meetings key stakeholders in various communities will share transportation needs in their area with the Blue Ribbon panel.

MoDOT is working with Tilley’s Committee to hold the public meetings, one in each of MoDOT’s seven districts. The Committee and MoDOT are hoping a large number of Missouri’s citizens will participate and become involved in this important conversation.

The committee will submit a report of its findings and recommendations to Speaker Tilley by September.

May 14 – 1:00 p.m.
MoDOT – St. Louis District
Transportation Management Ctr
14301 South Outer 40 Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

May 21 – 1:00 p.m.
MoDOT – Northwest District
3602 North Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506

June 1 – 1:00 p.m.
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
202 South John Q Hammons Pkwy
Springfield, MO 65806

June 29 – 10:00 a.m.
Show-Me Center
1333 North Sprigg Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

July 9 – 1:00 p.m.
Activity and Recreation Center (ARC)
1701 West Ash Street
Columbia, MO 65203

July 23 – 10:00 a.m.
MoDOT – Northeast District
1711 South Route 61
Hannibal, MO 63401
August 6 – 10:00 a.m.
Gamber Center, Shenendoah Rm
4 SE Independence Avenue
Lee’s Summit, MO 64063

Law Enforcement Cracking Down on Buckling Up

Click It or Ticket Day and Night

by Kelly Martin



It only takes a few seconds to buckle up, but those few seconds could save your life in a traffic crash. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety joined with state and local law enforcement May 21-June 3 in the national “Click It or Ticket” enforcement campaign to crack down on buckling up. Missourians will be reminded to buckle up through state and national advertisements.

“A zero-tolerance policy for non-compliance with the seat belt law will be observed by troopers throughout this operation, as it is throughout the year, to raise seat belt awareness and compliance,” said Colonel Ron Replogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. “Every time you get into a vehicle you are at risk of being involved in a traffic crash. Give yourself and your loved ones a chance to survive, buckle up.”

In 2011 there were 784 people killed in traffic crashes on Missouri’s roadways. Of the 613 vehicle drivers and passen-

gers killed, 69 percent were not wearing seat belts.

“Many drivers take the attitude that ‘it will never happen to me,’ especially teens, but fatal crashes happen every day to all types of people,” said Leanna Depue, chair of the coalition’s executive committee. “We want to make sure everyone is buckled up - day and night.”

Wearing a seat belt is the most effective way to reduce injuries and fatalities in a crash. When worn correctly, seat belts can reduce the risk of death for front seat occupants of passenger cars by 45 percent. Similarly, belt use reduces the risk of serious non-fatal injuries by 50 percent for front seat occupants.

“Wearing your seat belt costs you nothing and not wearing it can cost you everything,” Depue said.

For more information about Click It or Ticket, visit <http://www.savemolives.com/>, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/saveMolives, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/saveMOLives.

Safety Jackpot Program

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How does the program reduce accidents and injuries? By offering employees safety incentives that can turn into valuable prizes. This is a proven approach to generating strong safety results by motivating employees. Creating a fun atmosphere builds safety and security awareness each day, and builds excitement as employees begin receiving prizes and cash.

“Our goal is for everyone to get home safe every day. This program is a key component of the overall revamping of our safety program that management is supporting 100 percent,” said Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis. “The result

we expect to see is a significant reduction in injuries.”

Thousands of companies used the program to improve their safety records, including Amoco Oil, Coca-Cola, Nabisco, General Electric, Marriott Hotels and Kraft Foods.

Over the next few months several new programs and processes will be rolled out to help us focus on keeping ourselves, our co-workers and all Missourians safe, as part of the new safety initiative.

“The concept of changing our safety culture really begins with the Safety

Jackpot Program,” said Risk and Benefits Management Director Jeff Padgett. “The recommendation to implement Safety Jackpot by our Safety Incentive and Culture Team was the first step in creating our comprehensive safety plan.”

Safety Jackpot begins July 1, and more than 3,000 MoDOT employees are eligible to participate.

You can review all the related information by clicking the link in the News and Events Box of the intranet home page <http://wwwwi/intranet/ri/SafetyJackpot.htm>, or visiting MoDOT’s Sharepoint site. Find the program over-

view and highlights, how the cards are distributed, FAQs and even the rewards catalog, so you can begin dreaming about redeeming your points. If you need assistance please contact your supervisor.

You can also visit the program website at www.safetyjackpot.com.

I-44 Project Wins Award

An Interstate 44 improvement project in Central Missouri was recently named one of the most significant construction projects of 2011 by the Associated General Contractors of America. As a result, the project’s contractor, Colum-

bia-based Emery Sapp and Sons, Inc., was one of 16 firms to receive the association’s Alliant Build America Award.



EES received the award for an innovative bridge sliding procedure which had never been used in Missouri, as well as other techniques used to accelerate the project.

The renovation consisted of two different projects: the first was to place an 8-inch concrete overlay on the west-bound lane of I-44 towards the gateway entrance to Fort Leonard Wood Military base, and the second was to replace the bridge superstructure on the heavily traveled I-44 between Lebanon and Saint Robert, Mo.

Silvester. “Projects such as this high-light MoDOT’s commitment to hiring quality contractors who will provide excellent highway improvements for Missouri taxpayers.”

The Alliant Build America Awards recognize the nation’s most significant construction projects. A panel of judges, representing all areas of construction, evaluated a number of submissions, assessing each project’s complexity, use of innovative construction techniques and coordination with partners, among other criteria.

For more information, visit www.agc.org/awards, or <http://tinyurl.com/8x5d5ut> to view the official news release.

New Signs for Adopt-A-Highway Program

by Holly Dentner

In an effort to attract new volunteers for the Adopt-A-Highway program, MoDOT redesigned the signs that are placed on state right-of-way to indicate adopters’ names.

The new signs will look similar to existing Adopt-A-Highway signs, with the familiar blue background and yellow coreopsis flowers in the upper right corner. Where each sign used to be printed with the adopter’s name, new adopters will have their names printed on plaques that are attached to signs.

“If for some reason an adopter cancels their agreement for their section of highway, we can leave that sign installed and just remove the plaque,” said Stacy Armstrong, Roadside Management Specialist. “If there’s no plaque, motorists will see the bottom

half of the new sign, which states the section as ‘available’ with our toll-free phone number.”

If an Adopt-A-Highway section has signs showing it as available, Armstrong hopes that other potential adopters will see the availability and call to sign up. Old signs that have adopter names printed on them can also be covered with “Available” plaques.

“This is an easy and efficient way to make our Adopt-A-Highway program more visible,” said Armstrong. “Over time, we also hope that it will reduce the time maintenance crews spend installing new sign posts and signs.”

The new signs are being phased in as new adopters sign up for the program.



June Service Anniversaries

45 Years

Glenda L. Robinett CO

35 Years

Steven R. Brooks NW
David W. Manking KC
Charles L. Vollmer SL
Daniel K. Salisbury SW
John D. Wenzlick CO

30 Years

Mark A. Durham KC

25 Years

Marvin L. Jackson NW
Louise Carroll KC
Terry R. Imhoff CD
Connie J. Roadruck CD
Rachel L. Wilhelm SL
Bart D. Harper SW
Bryan D. Wessler SW
Suzanne Roland SE
Thomas S. Braden SE

20 Years

Larry W. Jacobson NW
Philip E. Sandifer NE
Julie L. Neisen NE
Donald V. Bunch KC
William R. Abbott CD
Yan Gluzman SL
Kenneth L. Rothschild SL
Todd G. Strong SL
Bradley E. Hays SL
Cindy L. Merritt SW
Donald T. Saiko SW
Robert G. Becker SW
Brian N. Holt SE
David L. Taylor CO
Keith J. Kliethermes CO

Aaron A. Anglen CO
Joseph G. Jones CO
Eric E. Schroeter CO
Lawrence L. Ayres CO
Michael W. Shea CO
Emmett E. Nichols CO

15 Years

Maria T. Longoria NW
Heath J. Otte NE
Clifton J. Scott KC
Elmer H. Gillespie KC
Terry A. Summers KC
Geoffrey M. Franks CD
Patrick J. Bauer CD
Marcus D. Hall SL
Scott E. Bachman SW
Dewayne D. Coffin SW
Angela I. Eden SW
Donald Essner SE
Lloyd D. Crewse SE
Darrell W. Emery SE
Christopher D. Shulse CO
Ruth M. Falter CO
Carol J. Pryor CO
Cheri M. Middendorf CO

10 Years

Dustin W. Herron NW
Angela K. Ellis NW
Troy W. Collins KC
Donald R. Gentry KC
Dustin J. Dorenkamp SL
Phyllis D. Humphrey SW
Darrin L. Carroll SW
Timothy N. Thornton SW
Eric M. Hambey SW
Heath L. McNew SE

Michael P. Chasteen SE
Craig N. Atkins SE
Troy D. Myers SE
Bryan A. Hartnagel CO
George T. Marcak CO

5 Years

Craig E. Campbell NW
Steven L. Martin NW
Nevin B. Hamilton NW
Richard O. Lyon NE
Taylor J. Hill KC
Michael T. Landvik KC
Brian E. Lavender KC
Jacob A. Wilson KC
Brian G. Lunsford KC
Aaron L. Broaddus KC
Ryan M. Watterson KC
Gina D. Myles KC

Ryan L. Sealock CD
Anthony J. Gambaro SL
Crystal D. Speak SW
Bryan D. Querry SW
Jason D. Evenden SW
Henry R. Bevier SW
Jason D. Parks SW
Brian G. Okenfuss SE
Kimberly A. Arnold SE
Lonnie E. Thompson SE
Michael L. Smith SE
Ann M. Wink SE
Tracie Sanders SE
Trenton B. Crawford CO
Stephen G. Dickneite CO
Roberta C. Uballez CO
Jason Struempf CO
Adeyemi A. Olalekan CO
Christopher G. Luebbert CO

April Retirements

Name	District	Years of Service
Donald Earixson	NW	28
Roger Parton	NE	29
Anthony Perkins	NE	32
Karl Otto	KC	6
James Lee	CD	29
Mitchell Stumpe	CD	32
Gary Hays	CD	32
Becky Goad	SW	23
Stephen Beeler	SW	10
Gaila Campbell	SW	25
Richard Eggers	SE	6
Wade White	SE	29

Darrell Heaton	SE	28
R B Regan	CO	19
William Buschman	CO	12
Carol Lueckenhoff	CO	23
Caroline Pearson	CO	19

In Memoriam

Retirees			
Donald Grasty	Former D4	April 1	
Margaret Marr	Former D6	April 6	
Ronald Ellison	Former D1	April 11	
Norman King	Former D1	April 17	
Edgar Swopes	Former D7	April 24	
Dorothy Kruel	Former D2	April 28	

Central Office

Bolder Five Year Direction

St. Mary's Building Vacated and Sign Production Outsourced

by Holly Dentner

Implementing the Bolder Five Year Direction challenged the department with many difficult choices, both in staffing levels and in equipment and facilities. With current funding levels at their lowest point in years, and the future of transportation funding uncertain, MoDOT has had to examine every aspect of how it does business to look for possible efficiencies.

One way to achieve that goal was to reduce the number of buildings MoDOT leases for office space. As of April 1, the transportation planning division moved out of its location on St. Mary's

Boulevard in Jefferson City. It was the last division to vacate that facility, which means that MoDOT offices are no longer located there. Transportation Planning moved to the Central Office facility at 105 W. Capitol.

One of the other efficiencies implemented has been the closing of MoDOT's sign production center and outsourcing the production of signs. Over the last few months the sign shop has reduced its production levels and it officially closed on April 1.

MoDOT sent out a request for vendors



Cathy Morrison

Sign production comes to an end at the sign shop in Jefferson City.

and contracted with three companies that will produce signs for the department. A competitive bid process was conducted, ensuring that MoDOT will receive the best value for every taxpayer dollar spent. The contracts were awarded to the lowest bidders: one located near Kansas City, Mo. and the other two in Ohio and Arkansas.

The contract was split into three categories: flat sheet signs, structural signs and unique signs. Decals and bumper stickers are not included in the contract, due to the low production volume. They

will have to come from local providers. The contract only pertains to signs being replaced or added by MoDOT forces, so it does not include signs for construction projects. Signs produced by the new vendors cannot be shipped to maintenance buildings, but will be sent to district and regional offices and distributed by district personnel.

So far, the department has been pleased with the response and quality of the signs produced by its new vendors. MoDOT employees who worked at the sign shop have been incorporated into maintenance forces where appropriate.

New Online Connections Coming in August

by Tammy Wallace

In the May edition of Connections we introduced that the monthly newsletter was getting a makeover. The goal behind the makeover is to produce a more timely, informative and newsworthy employee publication. It also follows the path of the Bolder Five-Year Direction by taking less time to produce and reduces costs.

The new online version will be intro-

duced in August, and here's what you'll see:

- A fully electronic newsletter published every other Thursday
- Distributed to employees via email and posted on the MoDOT Website www.modot.org.
- Building supervisor will print one copy to share with those whose access to email is limited

Retirees will also have to view the publication on the Internet. For convenience, retirees can sign up to receive an email notification each time the new online version of Connections is published. The email will provide a link to the most recent newsletter. Simply visit the website at www.modot.org/eupdate to sign up to our e-Update System and select the Connections option.

Active employees who would like to receive an email notification at their home email address can also sign up (please do this for home email only).

The customer relations staff is excited to bring this new online version of Connections to employees. Watch for it in August!

Coalition Addresses Distracted Driving at Summit

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Driver distractions are as old as the wheel, however, the creation and rapid adoption of cell phones, then smart-phones escalated to the point that nearly every adult in the United States is connected 24/7. What began as concern about drivers taking phone calls while driving is now that folks are texting, web surfing and watching videos while operating a vehicle.

Driving distracted affects a driver by:

- Reducing perception of important traffic events – e.g. less likely to see a child run into the street after a ball.
- Slowing the speed of important traffic decisions – e.g. it takes longer to determine how to avoid the child
- Reducing the ability to execute evasive maneuvers – e.g. physical delays (dropping the phone), affect

the ability to swerve or brake.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol invited members of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety to participate in a distracted driving summit earlier this year. The group updated their knowledge of the issue and discussed how to educate drivers and encourage them become more attentive.

Among the tips they offer to help drivers avoid driving distracted are these:

- Turn off phones or make them inaccessible during drive time.
- Pull over to make or take a call and to use GPS or other devices.
- Ask passengers to make/take calls and texts.
- Secure pets in carriers or pet seat belts.
- Focus. The task at hand is full of risks. Just drive.

Biggest Loser Spring Into Shape Winners

Another round of the Biggest Loser competition, the "Spring Into Shape Edition," came to a close and two lucky winners are lighter in weight and heavier in coin. The top winner collected 90 percent of the money and the second place contestant 10 percent. The top three contestants are:

- First Place - Senior highway designer Ryan Libbert, winning \$405.00, with 21.70 percent weight loss;
- Second Place - Senior structural designer Ted Koester, winning \$45.00 with a 20.63 percent weight loss (a very close second place); and
- Third Place - Retirement system employee Jennifer Event, with a 16.07 percent weight loss.

Forty-five employees from Central Office and the Central District participated, for a total combined loss of 300 pounds. "I want to congratulate Ryan, Ted and Jennifer, and all of those who participated over the last 12 weeks," said Employee Development Specialist Ashley Woods who coordinates the competition. "I appreciate everyone's



The Biggest Loser Spring in to Shape Edition winners are: (left to right) Ryan Libbert, Jennifer Even and Ted Koester.

hard work and dedication as they work towards achieving their weight loss goals."

Woods said the summer edition will begin May 30. The new round will have a male and female winner splitting the pot 50/50. Watch for details.

for more info

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Northwest District

Work Zone Night

by Melissa Black



Visitors to the event enjoyed getting their photo taken with Barrel Bob and Baby Bob.

To help promote work zone safety and kick off national Work Zone Awareness Week April 23 - April 27, MoDOT's Northwest District introduced its very own work zone spokespeople – Barrel Bob and the one and only Baby Bob at its Work Zone Safety Fun Night from 4-6 p.m. on Monday, April 23.

The free event was open to the public and held at the district complex in St. Joseph. Visitors learned how to keep everyone safe on the roads during work zone season - both workers and motorists, and had fun with the family too!

Activities for the evening included:

- Barrel Bob and Baby Bob photos
- Exploring big trucks and other equipment
- Rides on the Seat Belt Convincer
- Child safety seat checks
- A Safety Town kid zone
- Fatal Vision Goggles activity
- Giveaways, crafts, refreshments, balloons and more!

Barrel Bob will be used throughout work zone season to promote safety and awareness by traveling around the

region to prominent locations where travelers can find him. The pair will remind motorists of the department's slogan, "Don't Barrel Through Work Zones."

Check out the photos from the event on www.facebook.com/MoDOTNWDistrict.



Maintenance Worker Kevin Lytton explains what one of our striper trucks does to some area children.



Safety Officer Lee Bearce educates visitors on the importance of buckling up.

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Shots From Around the District



On April 23, Garret Gillespie, Tammy Meneely, and Rodney Welch conducted a safe driving event at the Putnam County High School in Unionville. About 170 students signed the Buckle Up pledge.



Five MoDOT employees participated in Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 18. Pictured here are from left to right (top row) Russ O'Daniell, Dave Earls, Jack Smith; (bottom row) Mike Mooney and Joyce Reynolds.



Northwest Missouri celebrated the completion of the 700th Safe & Sound bridge completed in the state on Tuesday, May 1, 2012. The Missouri Department of Transportation celebrated this milestone with a ribbon cutting on Route C in Holt County at the Mid Branch Squaw Creek bridge.



Sixteen MoDOT employees helped clean up MoDOT's adopted section of roadway during the No MORE Trash! Bash. Thanks to Bryan Bailey, Barry Booth, Melissa Black, Holly Hailey, Darby Logan, Joseph Turner, Angie Downey, Norma Wood, Troy Slagle, Jack Smith, Scott Nett, Mary Miller, Tina Kavanaugh, Brenda Christie, David Oliver and Dave Earls.

Northeast District

Unfunded Needs Loom

The Champ Clark Bridge has spanned the Mississippi River in Louisiana for nearly 70 years. While it will continue to serve the Illinois/Missouri border for at least another decade or more, MoDOT began the initial environmental process necessary to prepare for constructing a new bridge once funding becomes available.

Keith Killen is the Transportation Project Manager and coordinated the initial meeting with partners who will be instrumental in a new bridge. They included the Illinois Department of Transportation, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and MoDOT environmental and historic preservation staff. “This meeting was more just to identify potential environmental impacts and to coordinate with our neighbors our roles and responsibilities with regard to the work that will need to be done,” Keith said. “It’s kind of unique because of the various partners involved which includes two different Corps of Engineering districts, two federal highway divisions, and, of course, the bi-state cooperation between Missouri and Illinois,”



Keith added. “The next step is to include other agencies such as the Coast Guard to let them know our intent to begin the environmental process and develop the purpose and need for the project,” he explained.

The bridge is named after James Beauchamp Clark, former Speaker of the House (1911 to 1919) from Bowling Green, Missouri.



Illinois Department of Transportation representatives John Negangard, Dennis O'Connell and Mark Dust talk about potential environmental impacts of replacing the bridge. Also pictured is Dr. Bob Reeder, historic preservation and Tom Batenhorst, transportation planning manager, both from MoDOT.

Crew Leaders Gear Up for Leadership Roles

About 30 maintenance crew leaders in the Northeast District, pictured below, participated in the Introduction to Supervision week-long classes to prepare them for future decision-making and leadership skills necessary to help MoDOT progress. The classes were led by Management Development Institute, a professional training company, who focused on the changing role of crew leaders in accordance with MoDOT's

Bolder Five-Year Direction. Some of the skills they focused on was breaking barriers through change, getting others to buy in and self image psychology.

Jamie Gottman, a member of the Palmyra maintenance team, thought the class was beneficial and offered specific ideas to handle various situations. “I enjoyed being in the class with others who are in the same position as me; it was good to hear different perspectives,” Jamie said.



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Around the District...



Jeannie Brown, of Texas, shared an emotional testimony with about 2000 high school students in northeast Missouri. Her daughter, Alex, (background) was texting while driving to school one morning, wrecked and lost her life. The NE Coalition for Roadway Safety and several sponsors brought the “Remember Alex Brown Foundation” to the schools so students could hear Jeannie, her husband, Johnny Mac, and their daughter, Katrina, speak on the dangers of making the choice to text and drive.



(Above) Shelbina crews are pictured doing what most crews were doing throughout the district the two weeks before Memorial weekend...mowing! (Left) About 150 Palmyra kids enjoyed visiting with Buckle's the Bear and the guys from MoDOT during Big Truck Night.



(Left) Thanks to Abel's Quik Shops, the work zone message continued into May. This sign is located at New Florence, visible for I-70 traffic. (Above) Barrel Bob was available for a photo shoot with kids from the Troy area to help kick off a work zone in the city along Route 47.

Kansas City District

KC District Opens its Doors Bring Your Child to Work Day and the Annual MoDOT Big Truck Night Proved Huge Success

by Kristy Hill Wegner / photos by Jennifer Benefield

The KC District opened its doors to families and friends of MoDOT on Thursday, April 26. The annual Bring Your Child to Work Day and KC's Annual MoDOT Big Truck Night welcomed more than 1,100 guests to see the district hard at work.

The day-long activities kicked off in the morning when more than 100 children came to Bring Your Child To Work Day to learn about what people do at work each day at MoDOT. A variety of departments put together activities, allowing those participating to visit different stations and learn a little about the different jobs.

Groups visited Kansas City Scout and toured the Traffic Management Center. Traffic set up the tricycles and cones so kids could try their luck at texting and driving to see what a distraction it causes.

In General Services, the groups were able to give the Nutty Professor a try and see if they could find and fit the right washers and nuts onto bolts, and learn about the equipment GS uses to keep equipment in good shape.

Design provided Match Box car-sized models of roundabouts and diverging diamonds. The kids were able to learn

the correct way to navigate these innovations. In Construction and Materials families toured the Materials Lab and learned about all the testing completed.

Maintenance provided a space for kids to create safety posters to be sent to each building, reminding workers to be safe. At this station, kids also got to use their engineering skills to build a marshmallow and toothpick bridge.

After lunch, kids designed safety posters and got to see a variety of the big trucks MoDOT uses in its operations. The help of many staff members who created and worked the stations so kids could learn about MoDOT made the day full of activities a huge success.

Following the day's activities, more than 1,000 people attended the KC District's 5th Annual Big Truck Night in Lee's Summit.

Participants were able to explore MoDOT's big trucks and area emergency service providers' vehicles, learned how to "Arrive Alive" by visiting crash exhibits, Operation Lifesaver and riding the Seat Belt Convincer, and enjoyed face painting and balloon making. Additional family-friendly activities included a cook-out with proceeds benefiting the Benevolent Fund,

Kansas City Scout Traffic Management Center tours and Lee's Summit Police Department canine and bomb squad demonstrations.

eager faces were excited and already planning for their visit in 2013.

A day full of learning and fun proved to be a big hit across the district. Many



Ryan Hale, Highway Designer, helped kids drive roundabouts and diverging diamonds with match box sized cars. The poster below shows the lasting impression this hands on navigation session had on the kids.



Roundabout Poster by Riley Moore, Age 6



Kids learned what distractions texting while driving could pose while seeing first hand the dangers of distracted driving.



Randy Johnson, Project Manager, used the seat belt convincer to highlight the importance of wearing seat belts. The Traffic Department also displayed a crashed truck to help share the message to "Buckle Up and Arrive Alive."



Poem by Troy Huffman, Age 9



Many eager faces attended the 5th Annual MoDOT Big Truck Night hosted by the KC District. The variety of trucks and demonstrations kept all in attendance busy.

for more info

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Central District

Ground Broken for New Hurricane Deck Bridge

Lake of the Ozarks area residents joined state, city and county officials in breaking ground May 4 for a new Hurricane Deck Bridge on Route 5 in Camden County.

The new bridge is being built on the east side of the existing structure, which is located south of Sunrise Beach. It will be wider to include two 12-foot driving lanes with seven-foot shoulders on each side. The existing bridge will remain open to traffic during construction of the new structure, which will be complete in late 2013 at a cost of \$32.3 million. American Bridge Company, Inc. of Overland Park, Kansas is the contractor on the project.

Speakers at the ground breaking ceremony included State Rep. Diane Franklin, Camden County Presiding

Commissioner Kristopher Franken, Camdenton Mayor Dennis North, Lake of the Ozarks West Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mike Kenagy, American Bridge Company Vice President Scott Gammon and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. Travis Koestner, Assistant District Engineer for the Central District, served as the emcee for the event, which was held underneath the existing Hurricane Deck bridge.

Kevin noted that while it was an important day for the lake area, projects the size of the Hurricane Deck bridge are a thing of the past. He explained that declining funding for transportation will prevent the department from tackling major projects that improve safety, create jobs, ease congestion and promote economic development.



Pictured from left to right breaking ground for the new Hurricane Deck bridge in Camden County are Central District Assistant Engineer Travis Koestner, American Bridge Company Vice President Scott Gammon, Camdenton Mayor Dennis North, Camden County Presiding Commissioner Kristopher Franken, State Rep. Diane Franklin, Lake of the Ozarks West Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mike Kenagy and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith.

Chris Engelbrecht Receives Safety Honor

Central District Safety and Health Manager Chris Engelbrecht is the recipient of the Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction for Safety.

Gov. Jay Nixon presented Chris with the award at a May 10 ceremony in the governor's office. The award is given to an employee who uses innovative initiatives and approaches to protect and ensure the health and safety of state workers and customers.

As the go-to person for emergency response in Central Missouri, Chris not only helps law enforcement, but is a critical resource for MoDOT employees as well. He makes sure everyone involved can respond to incidents and manage them as safely as possible.

"Chris' fantastic attitude about service makes a real difference to Missouri drivers, and the maintenance employees look to him when we have safety-related questions," said Maintenance Superintendent Mike Belt.

Chris' dedication and capabilities have also earned him the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "People Saving People" public safety award.

The Office of Administration's Division of Personnel sponsors the Missouri State Employee Awards of Distinction, which honor state employees in the categories of Public Service, Leadership, Safety and Heroism. Chad Embree, intermediate maintenance worker for the Southwest District, was awarded the Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction for Heroism.



Chris Engelbrecht receives the Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction for Safety from Gov. Jay Nixon.

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A Visit to Iron Mountain

Staff from the Central District and Central Office recently toured Iron Mountain Trap Rock Company in Iron County. The tour was hosted by Fred Weber Inc., the company's owner.

Rock from the company offers one of the best materials to use as an aggregate for chip sealing. This year, the Central District will be placing a high quality

chip seal on more than 400 miles of minor roads.

"The tour was a great training for our folks and allowed them to see how the rock gets blasted off the face of the mountain and then is sent through a maze of conveyors," said Central District Maintenance Engineer Mark Giessinger.



Staff from the Central District and Central Office recently toured the Iron Mountain Trap Rock Company in Iron County. Pictured left to right are Jason Shafer, Mark Giessinger, Bob Cunningham, Ben Wharton, Jason Sommerer, Jim Hager, Ken Strube, Todd Miller, Dale Baumhoer, Jim Carney, Mike Belt, Preston Kramer, Charlie Schroyer and Mark Buscher. In the background is the face of the rock quarry, which can be seen actually rusting from the iron content of the rock.

Transportation Day



Buckle Bear visited with students at the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City as part of the center's Community Workers and Transportation Month in April. Central District engineers and maintenance staff were also on hand to show the youngsters several pieces of equipment used to maintain roads and bridges.

St. Louis District

MoDOT, Trailnet and Metro Transit Partner to Increase Motorist, Cyclist and Pedestrian Safety

by Kara Price

Many Missourians rely on walking and bicycling for transportation options. While both provide physical and health benefits, they also have the potential for serious or fatal injuries if involved in a motor vehicle crash.

The Missouri Department of Transportation, Trailnet and Metro Transit recently partnered to kick off the “Safe Roads for All” initiative throughout May to enforce the need for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to share the road and be aware of one another’s safety. Leaders of these transportation agencies led a safety ride/walk/drive in early May from the Missouri History Museum to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station representing the importance of “sharing the road.”

Frances Cole spoke at the news conference that kicked off the joint safety initiative. Her mother, Dr. Jennifer Cole, was hit and killed last summer while riding her bicycle. Jennifer Cole was the mother of four and was an accomplished athlete and pediatric anesthesiologist.

“Pedestrians and bicyclists need to understand that they have primary responsibility for their own safety,” said Ed

Hassinger, MoDOT District Engineer for St. Louis region. “The motoring public also has a responsibility to share the road in a safe and courteous manner with these vulnerable road users.”

A livable community is one that provides safe and convenient transportation choices to all citizens, whether it’s by walking, bicycling, transit, or driving. With it being the beginning of summer, there is a significant increase throughout May in both cyclists and pedestrians on Missouri roads. In the last few years, pedestrian fatalities comprise 8% of Missouri’s traffic crash fatalities. There were 2,483 people killed in Missouri traffic crashes from 2009 to 2011, and 203 of them were pedestrians.

Another 1,271 pedestrians were injured in Missouri traffic crashes from 2009 to 2011. Pedestrian safety improvements depend on an integrated approach that involves engineering, enforcement, education and emergency services.

“Roads and sidewalks that are designed for safe, comfortable travel for cyclists and pedestrians make the roads safer for motorized users as well,” Ann Mack, Director of Trailnet, said.

“When we design and maintain our roads for the most vulnerable user first and foremost, everyone benefits.”

“Public transit is a safe and economical means for people to get to work and play in our region,” John Nations, President and CEO of Metro said. “Many of our customers use sidewalks and bikes to access our transit system. It is important for all of us to promote safe and accessible travel for everyone.”

Below are additional tips for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists on the road:

- Obey all signs and signals and respect all road users.
- A few minutes ‘saved’ through speeding endangers all users.
- Try to get eye contact with other road users when proceeding through an intersection.
- Pedestrians need to use sidewalks. If you must walk in the street, walk single file, facing traffic and stay close to the edge of the road.
- Cross streets only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Don’t assume motorists will stop for you. Stay alert and choose to observe your immediate surroundings.
- Cyclists and pedestrians need to lighten up at night. Wear white or light colors and reflective strips. Have a friend observe you at night to help determine your visibility.

For more information, visit savemolives.com, trailnet.org or metrostlouis.org.

Be Safe. Be Seen. Arrive Alive.



These cyclists show how they “Share the Road” as they patiently wait for a car to pass by. Approximately 60 cyclists participated in a safety ride from the Missouri History Museum to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station to kick off the importance of “Safe Roads for All.”



MoDOT’s St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger discusses the need for pedestrians and bicyclists to be aware that they have primary responsibility for their own safety. He also explained that the motoring public has a responsibility to share the road in a safe and courteous manner.

Blue Ribbon Committee Gathered Public Input on Transportation in St. Louis

The Blue Ribbon Citizen’s Committee held it’s first in a series of seven meetings to be held across the state last month in St. Louis. The committee was formed by Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley to examine Missouri’s

current and future transportation needs and explore possible solutions.

Approximately 120 citizens attended the meeting to discuss the transportation needs in their area.



A representative from the Shoulders for Safety committee speaks to the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee about the future transportation needs in the St. Charles area, especially on rural routes.



Jefferson County Sheriff Glen Boyer speaks to the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee about the importance of enhancing transportation for the safety of Missouri’s roads

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Southwest District



Seymour Intermediate Maintenance Worker Chad Embrey receives State Employee Award of Distinction from Gov. Jay Nixon. Among those attending were, left, MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker and Chad's wife Larissa, and, right, Chad's father Eugene Embrey and mother Kathy Embrey and Chad and Larissa's son Jeremiah Allen.

Seymour's Chad Embrey Receives Governor's Award for Heroism

by Angela Eden

The quick action by Seymour Intermediate Maintenance Worker Chad Embrey that saved a man's life was honored by Missouri Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon.

Embrey received the Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction in Heroism in a May 10 ceremony in the Governor's Office.

Embrey and friend, Brady Bennett, were fishing at Lake of the Ozarks on a May afternoon in 2011 when they heard what they thought were kids yelling and messing around.

"I told Brady not to worry about it," Embrey said. "But Brady said he was going to check it out."

It turned out to be a woman shouting for help. Her husband had jumped into the lake and had gone under the water.

Embrey and his friend jumped in and searched through the murky water until they located the man and pulled him out. They estimate the man had been in the water for up to 25 minutes.

"We did CPR for about 15 minutes and he started coming around," Embrey

said. After the man regained consciousness, "He told us thanks."

Paramedics then arrived and took the man to a hospital where he remained for several days in intensive care before being released.

Embrey used the CPR training he received at MoDOT.

He and Bennett received the American Red Cross Everyday Hero Award. Embrey also has received MoDOT's Meritorious Safety Award.

One last note: The fishing partners, friends since childhood, had canceled their fishing trip three or four times but managed to hit the lake that day.

It turned out they were in the right place at the right time and Embrey credits a higher power for his location at that point in time.

"It's a God thing."

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SW District at Work

1. Removing engine components to do a dump truck engine overhaul in the District Garage is Intermediate Equipment Technician Mark Gott.
2. One of the Mount Vernon maintenance crew mowing along Interstate 44 west of Halltown is maintenance worker Chuck Curtis.
3. Participating in a planning partners meeting in Springfield are, from left, Senior Transportation Planner Andrew Seiler, District Planning Manager Frank Miller and Northwest Area Engineer Darin Hamelink.

Sidewalk Work in Joplin and Branson

by Bob Edwards

Sidewalk construction work and sidewalk ramp upgrades are under way this summer in Joplin and Branson.

Much of the work on each construction project is being done at night.

■ Joplin – New sidewalks are being built along Range Line Road at 36th Street. The sidewalks will connect to a new sidewalk that will be built as part of the nearby Diverging Diamond Interchange project at Range Line Road and

I-44 beginning later this year.

■ Branson – Sidewalk ramps are being upgraded at entrances along Route 248 between Route 65 and Shepherd of the Hills Expressway. The past two years saw sidewalk and ramp upgrades completed along the Route 76 strip.

The sidewalks and ramps will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Southeast District

Route 67 South Construction Begins This Summer Last Amendment 3 Project in SE District

With right of way acquisition wrapping up, construction to upgrade Route 67 to four lanes from south of Route M to south of Route 160 could begin as early as this summer. When complete, the improvements will provide a four-lane highway from Route 160 in Poplar Bluff to St. Louis, in addition to strengthening the connection from Route 160 to Route 60.

This project marks the last improvements in the Southeast District made possible through Amendment 3 funds. Amendment 3 was passed by Missourians in November 2004 in order to keep transportation dollars focused on major highway needs throughout the state.

“This project is a great example of what can be accomplished when funding is available,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “But with current transportation funding levels, it is unlikely Missourians will continue to see this type of improvement project. In the midst of a funding shortage, we will focus on maintaining our current system for as long as possible.”

Krapf explained the project will have a significant impact on the area by addressing the two primary concerns.

“The full interchange planned at the Route 160 intersection will address the current issues with left-turning traffic,” he said. “Additionally, the project will reduce the number of potential conflict points by limiting access.”

According to Krapf, managing the number and location of access points



Last August, a trio of ribbon cutting ceremonies celebrated completion of the Route 67 upgrade from north of Poplar Bluff to Fredericktown in Madison County. This summer, Poplar Bluff residents can expect to see more improvements to Route 67. The upcoming project will improve the route from south of Route M to south of Route 160.

will also help reduce congestion.

The improvements are expected to be completed by summer 2014.

As construction is underway, most of the work will be completed off of the existing right of way and will not impact traffic. There will be short-term closures on Route 158 as the interchange is constructed. Traffic will also utilize temporary bypasses as the new alignment is tied into the existing pavement.

“In addition to upgrading Route 67, we will replace two bridges on Route 67 near Neelyville with box culverts,” said Krapf. “Travelers are urged to pay extra attention when traveling through this busy construction area.”

The bridges to be replaced are located approximately 2 miles south of the four-laning project, and work will be underway during the same time period. The bridge work is expected to begin this summer, with completion anticipated by the end of the year.

Bids opened on both Route 67 projects on May 25. Additional information will be released prior to the start of construction.

For more information, please contact Krapf at (573) 472-5261, Resident Engineer Audie Pulliam at (573) 840-9781 or MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636).

SE District Schedules Public Briefings to Discuss Bridge Projects

In July, the Southeast District will hold two public briefings to discuss upcoming bridge projects.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, July 9 to discuss replacing the Route H bridge over Otter Slough Ditch in New Madrid County. The briefing will be held at Matthews City Hall, located at 100 Main St.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12 to discuss replacing the Route Y bridge over Buffalo Ditch in Dunklin County. The briefing will be held at Senath City Hall, located at 301 W. Commercial St.

To view the meeting materials or comment on the projects, please attend the online meetings available at: http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/index.htm.

www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/index.htm.

Updates will also be posted on the district’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, available at www.facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast and www.twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast.

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Work Zone Awareness Week Recap

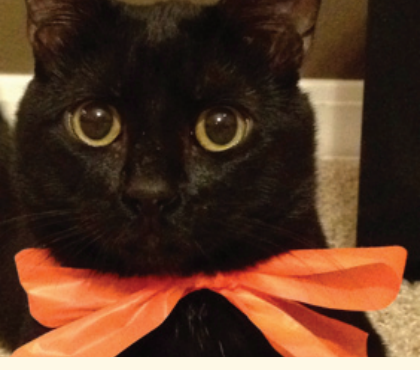
During this year’s National Work Zone Awareness Week, the Southeast District asked the public to help spread the word about the importance of work zone safety.

Participants guessed Barrel Bob’s location on Facebook and Twitter and sported orange during the district’s “Orange Out” to show their support.

Although Work Zone Awareness Week is over, there are still ways to help improve Missouri’s work zones. Travelers are encouraged to “Rate Our Work Zones” by filling out a quick, online form after traveling through a MoDOT work zone. The form is available at: www.modot.org.

Additional information is available at: http://www.modot.org/southeast/talkin_transportation/workzonesafety.htm.

Below: The following photos were submitted to the SE District for the Work Zone Awareness Wall of Fame. To view more photos visit www.modot.org/southeast or search for “MoDOT SE” on flickr.



Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



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Solutions at Work Approves 11 Best Practices from Statewide Challenge

by Jim Dickson

While only four innovations won statewide honors at last month's Innovations Challenge, more than half of the showcase participants have been approved as best practices. A recent meeting of district and Central Office reviewers evaluated all the non-winning showcase innovations and approved the following 11 tools, equipment modifications and processes as best practices:

- Bridge Patching Bracket (Central District)
- Bridge Washing Attachment (North east District)
- Deck Sealing Process (Northeast District)
- Edge Rut Box (Southwest District)
- Gator Getter Modifications (Kansas City District)
- Joint Puller (Central Office)
- Joint Pusher (Central District)
- Tab Remover (Northwest District)
- Tree Trimming Platform (Central District)
- Wing Plow Securer (Kansas City District)
- Wonder Chute (Northwest District)

A twelfth innovation is being modified by district staff and soon may join the others as a best practice. District inno-

vation coordinators will work to implement these best practices wherever they can to help get work done better, faster, cheaper and safer.

Photos, plans and videos of the best practices are available at <http://wwwwi/intranet/or/Solutions/solutionslist.htm>.



Bridge Bracket



Wonder Chute



Bridge Washer Attachment



Tab Remover



Edge Rut Box



Joint Pusher

Youth Transportation Conference Looking for Participants

MoDOT sponsors an annual Youth Transportation Conference each summer. Thirty students are selected from across the state to attend this conference in Jefferson City. The six-day conference is free to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders, with participants staying overnight on the campus of Lincoln University. Contributions from public and private agencies allow the department to continue offering this program.

The conference exposes students from across Missouri to the numerous career opportunities in the field of transportation and is packed with fun and exciting academic, career development and social activities. Students apply math, science, and computer concepts learned in school to transportation related problems. The academic curriculum includes sessions on math modeling,

applied physics, magnetic levitation, public administration and safety. Other activities include field trips, office/site tours, and speakers from various divisions within MoDOT and related organizations.

Interested students must complete an application in full which must be accompanied by the required essay. Deadline for submission is June 8. Ap-

plications and more information can be found at <http://www.modot.mo.gov/EqualOpportunity/youthcamp.htm>.

For more information regarding the Youth Transportation Conference contact the MoDOT Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division at 573-522-5333 or via email at equalopportunity@modot.mo.gov.